

Jordan @Shemer

6th Grader • PCDS



Artist, Jordan Merkel

ZONA: Where have you been for the last two years? Tell us all about it! **JORDAN:**

For the past two years, I lived in Malmo, Sweden with my Mom, Dad and Brother. During those two years, I traveled with my family to twenty-nine different countries. Some of my favorite countries were Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Sweden, Greece, Austria and the Czech Republic. I really enjoyed seeing what it was like living in a foreign country. I went to an International School where I made friends with people from all over the world. My best friend was from Texas and came to Sweden after living in Shanghai.

ZONA: How do you like your new school, Phoenix Country Day School? **JORDAN:** I really like PCDS. I like that I have a lot of different classes, the new seven-day rotation, and the electives. The classes are really cool, the teachers are very helpful and kind, and it's fun making new friends.

ZONA: When did you start art? What kind of an artist are you? **JORDAN:** I've been interested in art as long as I can remember. It is my favorite hobby and I enjoy painting, ceramics, making collages, watercolors, origami, screening, and figuring out how to make things that I see in stores.

ZONA: Why do you love art? Where do you get your inspiration from? **JORDAN:** Creating any piece of art makes me happy. I enjoy art because when I do it, I can make anything I want. I love giving my art as gifts to my family and friends. I get my inspiration from nature, landmarks and other artist's work.

ZONA: Would you rather have a pet llama or a stray dog? What would you name that pet? **JORDAN:** I'd definitely rather have a pet llama, because I think llamas are cute and cuddly. I'd name my pet llama Xavier.

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“I love creating art, but I hate to color in other people's lines.”



ABOVE: Jordan works one on one with Shemer's ceramics art teacher, Alan Jones. "I really enjoy working with him. He taught me how to do both hand building and how to use the potter's wheel. He is a very talented and creative artist and a nice teacher. I love spending time at the Shemer Gallery."



LEFT: Jordan also makes Jewelry. She made a popport bracelet for Bella!



PHOTOS BY HEDI PEASE

NEW WAY ACADEMY

MEGAN CRAMER
Sophomore

ask azure

Dear Azure,
Recently the most popular girl in school asked to friend me online. We hadn't really talked very much before, but I decided to accept her request. However, after I did, she started writing nasty things about me on my Facebook wall for all of my friends to see. Now I'm getting picked on at school and online and I don't know what to do. I want to un-friend her, but I'm worried that she will be even meaner to me at school if I do. What should I do?

Sincerely - Betrayed

Dear Betrayed,
First of all, let's get one thing straight. The kids who are picking on you were never your friends. They are bullies, especially this girl who is posting unkind things on your wall. Show a trusted adult what she has been posting, and then un-friend her all together. Don't allow her to have power over you. What she has been doing is commonly referred to as "cyber bullying" and it can escalate if not stopped. You should also speak to your school principal about what has been going on. Even though this may not be occurring during school, he or she will still be able to help you. This might be a difficult time for you, having been betrayed by someone you thought was your friend, but the most important thing to remember is to stick with the people who stuck by you. They are your true friends. Think of this as an enlightening experience that has allowed you to see who is loyal to you. Try not to let anybody get you down!
Your Friend - Azure

Dear Azure,
My sister is such a brat! She is ten years younger than me, and she is so spoiled! She gets everything that she wants, and now she's started setting her eyes on my stuff! She sneaks into

Ask Azure continued on page 31

ask azure questions at
stories@iminthezona.com

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Unfortunately, there is really no safe threshold of sun or tanning that allows for vitamin D synthesis in the skin without also increasing the risk of skin cancer. So, I do not recommend intentional exposure to the sun for your daily dose of Vitamin D. Keep the hat and sunglasses on, apply sunscreen and avoid tanning beds. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends that the public obtain vitamin D from a healthy diet and supplements when necessary.

Dietary sources of vitamin D include fish, eggs and fortified dairy products. With a healthy diet and incidental sun exposure from daily activities, a majority of children and adults will be able to obtain sufficient levels of vitamin D to maintain good health. See your doctor, however, if you are concerned about your vitamin D levels. These can be checked with a simple blood test, and your doctor can advise if a vitamin D supplement is necessary.

Build your practice or business by being a part of IN THE ZONA'S popular "Kids & Health" section. E-mail: ads@iminthezona.com or call 602.795.3140.

XAVIER TO PRESENT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 4th 2:00 p.m.

Look for preview story coming in Nov. issue of ZONA



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Jordan

ZONA: What was the neatest art museum you've ever been to? What did you see there?

JORDAN: The National Gallery in Oslo, Norway.

I got to see *The Scream* by Edvard Munch. My Mom took a picture of me imitating the painting in front of the museum.

ZONA: What do you want to be when you grow up?

JORDAN: I want to own a restaurant in Paris where I can paint, make ceramics and other art pieces and sell them in my restaurant. I also want to design the menu and be the chef.

ZONA: What makes your mom so awesome?

JORDAN: My mom is cool because she knows me so well and she looks for neat opportunities for me to do the things I love to do, like take classes at the Shemer. ZONA: Tell us about your art instructor at Shemer? What is he like?

JORDAN: I have had the opportunity to work one-on-one with Alan Jones, who is a ceramics artist. I really enjoy working with him. He taught me both hand building and how to use the potter's wheel. He is a very talented and creative artist and a nice teacher. I love spending time at the Shemer Gallery.



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